MARY N. PIEPHO Supervisor, District III Board of Supervisors

Contra Costa County



Committees: Chair, Transportation, Water & Infrastructure Vice Chair, E-Bart Group ABAG/CALFED Task Force **ABAG Regional Planning** Airport Ad Hoc Subcommittee Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority Delta Protection Commission Dougherty Valley Oversight East Contra Costa Habitat Conservation Plan Association. Executive Governing Board East Contra Costa Regional Fee & Finance Authority East County Transportation Improvement Finance Committee Library Board, Regional: South San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee State Route 4 Bypass Authority TRANSPLAN Tri-Valley Transportation Council

July 14, 2005

Ms. Claire Jacquemin U.S. Bureau of Reclamation 2800 Cottage Way, MP-700 Sacramento, CA 95825

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the San Luis Drainage Feature Re-evaluation and July 12 Public Hearing in Concord

Dear Ms. Jacquemin:

I appreciate this opportunity to submit comments on this project of vital interest to communities such as those I represent in Contra Costa County District III that are downstream of drainage-impaired lands in the San Joaquin Valley and near to the proposed terminus of the San Luis Drain. County staff will subsequently submit detailed comments on the EIS, but I wanted to have my views known on this matter.

My primary concerns are as follows:

- Constructing the San Luis Drain and transferring the agricultural wastewater to the Delta is not an acceptable approach for addressing the drainage impairments of agricultural lands in the Westside of the San Joaquin Valley.
- The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a significant ecological resource and source
 of drinking water for many residents of east and central Contra Costa County as
 well as most of the state.

The Delta is also a premier area in the state for hunting and fishing. Taxpayers have invested millions of dollars to improve the health of the Delta and sustain and expand its many beneficial uses. Construction of the San Luis Drain would seriously undermine past and on-going investments in the health of the Delta and its not a viable solution to the problem.

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Committees:

• Feasible, in-valley alternatives to drainage export do exist and must be pursued to address the drainage problem of the San Joaquin Valley.

Thank you very much for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

MARY N. PIEPHO County Supervisor, District III

MNP:rpk